

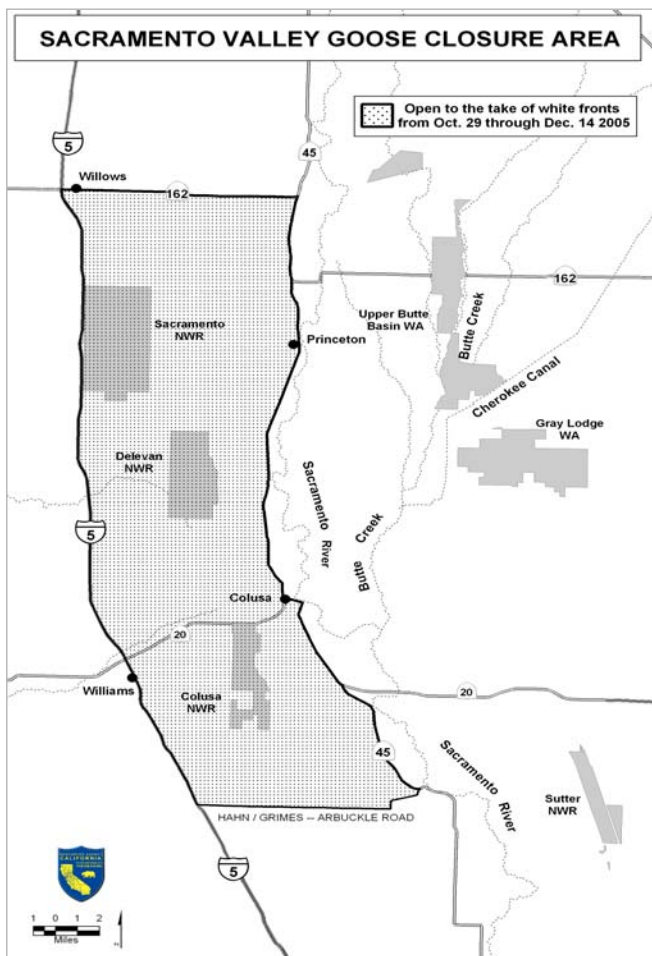
WHY ARE THE WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HUNTING REGULATIONS DIFFERENT IN THIS AREA?

The shorter season and lower bag limit have been established to minimize the harvest of tule greater white-fronted geese. Based on radio telemetry studies, Tule geese show a preference for the western Sacramento Valley - especially the Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa NWRs. Measurements of white-fronts taken at these check stations indicate Tule geese make up a disproportionate percentage



Photo by Gary Kramer

of the white-front harvest on these public hunting areas. By mid-December, Tule geese are a larger proportion of the white-fronted goose population in the closure area. The closure area was originally implemented in 1975 to eliminate the harvest of Aleutian Canada geese. In the 1980's, the closure was expanded to include Cackling Canada geese and Pacific white-fronted geese. At that time, both populations were at record low levels.



Why are Tule white-fronts special?

Tules are one of two white-fronted goose subspecies that winter in California. Only a portion of their Alaskan breeding range is known. While population estimates for Pacific white-fronts have rebounded from less than 100,000 to over 400,000; Tule goose numbers appear to have remained stable at between 7,000 and 12,000 birds. They tend to be much larger than the other subspecies (Pacifics); adults have less speckling on their breast and are darker in color, especially on the head and neck. Measurements are needed to positively distinguish the two subspecies.

You Can Help by Allowing the White-Fronted Geese You Harvest to be Measured. Good Information on Tule Geese is Important to the Continued Hunting of White-Fronted Geese in the Sacramento Valley.